08-13555-mg Doc 15746-10 Filed 04/08/11 Entered 04/08/11 10:21:48 Exhibit J Pg 1 of 30

EXHIBIT J

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

CASE NO.: 07-20027

United States Courts
Southern District of Texas
FILED

JUN - 7 2007

STYLE: Scotia Development, LLC

Michael N. Milby, Clerk of Court

HEARD ON: 5/22/07

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JUDGE: Richard S. Schmidt

COURT REPORTER: Sharon Russell

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

United States Courts Southern District of Texas FILED

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

JUN - 7 2007

CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

Michael N. Milby, Clerk of Court

IN RE: SCOTIA DEVELOPMENT LLC,.

CASE NO. 07-20027

____,

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

DEBTOR.

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007

2:01 P.M. TO 2:25 P.M.

MOTION HEARING

SOME PARTIES APPEARING TELEPHONICALLY

BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD SCHMIDT UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

Trinity Transcription Services 122 Trinity Oaks Circle The Woodlands, TX 77381 281-296-2290

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

CORPUS CHRISTI DIVISION

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committee. And then you also decided that Bracewell, the noteholder group's counsel is an entity representing more than one creditor and, therefore, subject to the disclosure requirements of 2019.

So what we're asking for today is first for the Court to reexamine the initial factual finding about whether the Ad Hoc Group is a committee. Second, we're asking your Honor to clarify your bench ruling that Bracewell is an entity representing more than one creditor and, therefore, requires to make continuing disclosure under 2019.

So let's go for the first thing first, the reconsidering the factual findings. You found this is not a committee. Quote, you said, "At this point, this is just one law firm representing a bunch of creditors."

Your Honor, during the hearing, we presented fairly considerable evidence that the noteholder group was formed back in 2005, over two years ago, as an ad hoc committee. It held itself out to Scopac and to the world as an ad hoc committee. It appeared before this Court as an ad hoc committee.

Specifically, we presented copies of the ad hoc committee's engagement letter with counsel, the engagement letter with their financial advisor, a copy of their non-disclosure agreement between Scopac and counsel for the committee, as well as the listing of every pleading filed by the ad hoc committee stating that they are an ad hoc committee.

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Each of those documents clearly -- clearly shows you that the noteholder group organized itself as a committee, retained counsel at Scopac's request as a committee, retained a financial advisor as a committee, entered into a confidentiality agreement with Scopac as a committee, and appeared, I think some 17 times in this case, as a committee. What do we have on the other side? The noteholder group didn't present any evidence to the contrary showing that they were not a committee. They just said they weren't. Your Honor, we would submit that the clear weight of evidence before the Court demonstrates this group --Then they changed their name to group. THE COURT: MS. COLEMAN: And they changed their name to group. That's true, your Honor. That's the change they made. And that's kind of the point, your Honor. They've held themselves out to the Court and the world as a committee. And they shouldn't be able to avoid the requirements of 2019, which are not onerous by simply changing their name or changing the heading on their pleadings. that's the first thing you were asking for, your Honor. And we're respectfully asking that you reconsider your decision and find that they are, in fact a committee. Now second, and kind of separate from the first -the first request that we have. We would ask the Court to

clarify its bench ruling that Bracewell is subject to 2019, and

therefore subject to continuing disclosure.

And in their response to the 2019 motion, your Honor, Bracewell said we're not an entity representing a bunch of creditors, because we only have one client, the noteholder group. And therefore, we don't really have to disclose, even though we did file a cursory statement voluntarily, we didn't really have to.

And you rejected that position, your Honor. You said, during the April 17th hearing, you said that, no, I don't accept the one client theory. I think that Bracewell is a law firm representing a bunch of creditors.

You clearly directed Bracewell in that hearing, or at that -- at the time of that ruling, to update its 2019 statement.

Before we filed this motion, we sent a letter asking Bracewell to update its 2019 statement and provide the information. They've still not answered our letter.

And, your Honor, it's very clear. Rule 2019 applies to any "entity representing more than one creditor." And that's what you found here.

So what do they have to file? What do we want? Well they've got to file a few things, not very much, but a few.

The name and address of each of the creditors that the entity represents, the nature and amount of the claim, and then a recital of the pertinent facts and circumstances in

connection with the entity's employment.

So that's what we're asking for, your Honor. Now what does Bracewell say? Well they make two arguments against our motion.

First they said, well because Scopac participated in drafting the form of order, somehow it's precluded from asking for a clarification. Your Honor, Rule 60 was designed for precisely this situation.

And second of all, the Court clearly directed

Bracewell in your oral ruling to update its statement. We

didn't think we had to put it in the order, because we thought

your direction was apparent. But since we've received no

response to our request for updated information under 2019, we

felt we needed to file a motion.

The next thing that Bracewell argues is that they were not a party to the motion and therefore no relief can be entered against them. You can't order them to file any more -- any more disclosure.

And that's not right, because in their response to the motion, Bracewell brought itself into play by arguing it only had one client, the group, although that group was not a committee.

But you rejected that, your Honor, and your found that Bracewell was a law firm representing a number of creditors, not just one.

So now, they're saying, well notwithstanding the Court's clear holding, it still doesn't have to require -- it still isn't required to comply with 2019.

Your Honor, final point, they can't have it both ways. Either the noteholder group is a committee and they have to make that disclosure under 2019, or Bracewell is an entity representing multiple creditors, and they have to make the disclosure required by 2019.

The Rule clearly applies to the group. The group knows the rule applies. And they're tap dancing around the fringes of the rule in an attempt to show it doesn't apply.

And, your Honor, respectively -- respectfully, we would like to require all parties to comply with their statutory obligations to provide some very basic information. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

MR. FLASCHEN: Your Honor, Evan Flaschen of Bracewell & Giuliani for the noteholder group.

This is a Motion for Reconsideration. Your Honor entered an order. And using your words, "After reviewing carefully all of the pleadings."

The form of order was the form submitted by Scotia Pacific. Quoting from their pleading objecting to the noteholder form of order,

"Scopac respectfully requests that this Court reject

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order?

what your Honor entered.

MR. HOLZER: I have a copy for you.

Six fifty-nine, your Honor. MR. FLASCHEN:

And the actual order as entered also has at the top of it a second docket number 658-4, which shows you just signed the form of order they submitted to you.

> THE COURT: Okay.

MR. FLASCHEN: So even though the order itself says submitted by Evan Flaschen and Gregory Nye, it's, in fact, the order that they submitted.

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2 So there's no controlling law you disregarded.

3 There's no credible evidence in the record at all. But even if

4 | there is evidence, we believe it was countered by the documents

5 attached to our pleadings, showing repeated statements by

6 | Scopac expressing frustration that our group was only, in their

view, 15 or 20 percent of the notes. And, therefore, could not

8 represent the noteholders.

We also had oral argument. And again, unless your Honor believes you completely disregarded the pleadings, the arguments, the documents, then there is no ground for reopening this under Rule 9023.

Rule 9024 is even more basic. Was there a clerical error? Did you intend one thing, but by mere clerical mistake or oversight do another? I was paraphrasing from a Fifth Circuit decision.

(Pause)

MR. FLASCHEN: It seems to us you did exactly what you intended to do, which was enter an order finding that the committee did not -- was not a committee within the meaning of the specific rule, and that the noteholder group did not need to comply with the rule.

For the first time in their Motion for Reconsideration, Scopac now raises arguments about Bracewell. Their original motion did not seek relief against Bracewell.

It was a Motion to Compel the noteholder group.

At no time did any of their pleadings seek relief against Bracewell. This was an argument they could have made in their original motion, and they did not. And I will now quote from <u>In re: Kellogg</u>. It's an Eleventh Circuit decision. It is cited in our brief of pleading, which says that, in that case,

"Kellogg may not use a Rule 5019 Motion to raise argument available but not advanced at the hearing."

They did not advance any arguments about Bracewell.

They cannot do so now on a Motion for Reconsideration.

Finally, repeating Ms. Coleman's words about what they want Bracewell to disclose, the names and addresses of its clients. Well we disclosed the names. The addresses you can find on the internet. But we're happy to send along the addresses of the clients if they would find that helpful, on a voluntary basis.

We disclose that in footnote one of every single pleading we have filed in this case, including long before they filed their 2019 motion.

Second, the amount of the claim. We have repeatedly disclosed the amount of the aggregate claim of the noteholder group. Sometimes more than 90 percent, sometimes more than 95 percent. To be precise for this hearing, based on the most recent information reported to me, the noteholder group holds

98.06 percent of the notes in the Timber Noteholder Indenture.

Three, are the circumstances of engagement. We have repeatedly stated the circumstances of engagement in our own pleadings. Scopac contacted noteholders in March, 2005 and said, would you please form a group to have discussions with us.

In March, 2005, that group retained Bingham

McCutcheon, which then became, because of the lawyers

transferred to Bracewell, became Bracewell. So we have

repeatedly disclosed those circumstances. And we're repeatedly
said we do not have an engagement letter.

Well starting over, it would take remarkable circumstances to change an order. The proper vehicle for Scopac, if they disagree with, your Honor's decision, is to file an appeal.

Second, they can't now seek relief against Bracewell when they didn't, in their pleadings, to begin with. Three, even if Bracewell were subject to 2019, which we dispute, and if they ever file a motion, which we will dispute in writing, we believe we have complied with what the order would require.

So why they even filed this motion, I don't know.

But unless your Honor says it completely disregarded everything that's been filed to date, your Honor cannot, as a matter of law, alter or amend the order that you've already entered.

Thank you.

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1 MS. COLEMAN: Your Honor, very, very briefly in 2 response.

The evidence point, your Honor. At trial we presented all the documents I described to you and gave copies to the other parties in the courtroom. They were handed up to you and accepted into the record.

No objection was made to their admission into evidence at that time. So I don't think that -- that Bracewell can now raise that -- raise that point.

Second, your Honor, the issue with respect to including Bracewell in the order, you said it on the record, your Honor. And you ordered Bracewell to do something.

The fact that it wasn't in the order was because we didn't think we needed to have it in the order, because we thought it was so self-evident. Clearly, it wasn't, because we have still not received a response. Although, Mr. Flaschen now says that he will send along some things.

And finally, your Honor, the disclosure of the aggregate claim is not response to what's required by 2019. Twenty nineteen clearly requires an entity representing more than one creditor to disclose the amount of the claim, not what it paid, that's only if it's a — it's only if it's a committee. You don't have to disclose the amount you paid if you're an entity representing more than one creditor. But you do have to disclose the amount of each creditor's claim, not

simply the aggregate amount.

And finally, your Honor, with respect to the -- the question of whether Bracewell was or was not a party to the original motion, the fact remains that your Honor told Bracewell it had to do something in your oral ruling. And I don't think that they can now say that they are not required to do so simply because the original motion was seeking relief against the committee.

Thank you, your Honor.

MR. FLASCHEN: And then, your Honor, an even briefer response.

Your oral ruling, and I quote, "All I'm doing is denying the Motion to File the 2019 Information as requested."

Your order, "The noteholder group is not a committee. The noteholder group is not subject to disclosure."

There is no order here that Bracewell need to do anything. And if they want Bracewell to do something, they should file a motion against Bracewell, which we will vigorously defend, because that motion will also be in error.

Thank you, your Honor.

motion did not request that Bracewell do anything. It was a request that -- that the committee or slash group comply with 2019. And I think I ruled consistent with the -- with the order.

I suspect if I wanted to change the order, I probably would change it to say that I -- the motion's denied, that they're not a committee. But to the extent that they are, then I grant them permission not to file the stuff.

But I did. And second, I think I can probably reconsider any of my orders and redraw them any way I want. I'm not going to reconsider this one.

And then further, I think I did point out that I thought that Bracewell & Giuliani, although it's not before me, and I reserve the right to change my mind if it's brought before me, because I'm not prejudging the issue, but that -- that reading 2019, which, you know, it's one of those provisions in the Code that, you know, you guys probably read these things all the time, has never, ever came before me. I forgot it was even there.

And if from time to time when I read through the Code I find new things again that I probably knew at one time that I don't remember.

And now this seems to be on -- I mean, since -- well probably since the airline case, this is now on everybody's radar as a current topic to discuss.

In any event, I personally think that -- that you should comply with the provisions of 2019 with respect to your representation. I thought to the extent that, I mean, you know, I said that from the bench. I don't think it needs to be

in the order either, because that was not the relief that was requested.

I think you need to comply. However that takes form, or if you want to, you know, using the sporting theory or jurisprudence, wait till they file a motion, and then -- then we argue about it. I don't know what the remedy is if you don't comply. But I -- you know, you have pretty much complied with it.

I suspect technically you should file the specific amounts of the claims of each of the -- of your people you represent. But I think this is -- I know that this is one of those things that everybody finds important.

I think it's far more important in the sense of the impact it might have on the trading of claims and the distressed claims market. And that's the reason I -- I made sort of a practical decision when I made the decision.

In any event, I also understand that -- that this is one of those things that -- that, I mean, you can't fault the reasoning of the New York Court. I just don't think that was what was intended by the statute originally. I think the statute went back to the old Douglass group and whatever that -- those -- that group, the study of -- of committees as they existed back then, and not committee in the sense that we talk about them now. And so what's why I sort of drew that line.

In short, I'm denying the Motion to Reconsider. 1 2 Anything further? MR. FLASCHEN: Judge, yes, your Honor. Evan Flaschen 3 4 of Bracewell. My understanding of what you said is somewhere 5 between you think we should comply, or you're asking us to 6 comply. Bracewell as a law firm respectfully, we would request 7 Scopac to file a motion, because we would be the Defendant on 8 several grounds, both that it does not apply to us. And even 10 if it does, they're not interpreting it --So you're going to argue about all this 11 THE COURT: over whether or not you have to file a list of the -- the 12 claims that -- of the people that you -- that you represent 13 when you're already doing everything else? In fact, you're 14 15 doing more. The amount of their individual 16 MR. FLASCHEN: holdings, absolutely, your Honor. We do not believe the rule 17 requires that disclosure. 18 Well --19 THE COURT: MR. FLASCHEN: And we welcome --2.0 **THE COURT:** -- don't they all have to file claims 21 22 anyway? And we welcome the opportunity to 23 MR. FLASCHEN: brief it, your Honor. 24

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No the indenture trustee files a single claim on

CERTIFICATION 1 2 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the 3 electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-4 5 entitled matter. 6 7 8 9 Transcriber 10 07-20027 05/22/07 - 06/04/07 11